

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 73-80 and amend claims 1, 9, 19, 34, 42, 50, and 61 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of script usage in an interactive television system comprising:
 - storing an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program;
 - executing an interactive television application corresponding to a program,
wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content;
 - providing an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections;
 - executing a script which generates one or more automatic selections associated with the opportunity and based on said indication, said automatic selections comprising input to the interactive application, the input being input that would otherwise be received responsive to a viewer's active interaction;
 - generating one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity and based on said indication, said generating comprising executing a script, wherein provision of said desired level of added content is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections; and
 - providing said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections.
 - ~~wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, and wherein said automated input is indicative of a particular level of said levels of added content to be displayed.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
conveying said script from a network communications operator;
receiving said script; and
executing said script.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving said program, said added content, and said script at a receiver;
storing said program, said added content, and said script on a non-volatile storage
device coupled to said receiver; and
retrieving said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile
storage device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said network communications operator
receives said interactive application and said script from a head-end.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said head-end comprises a television
broadcaster.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said head-end comprises a web content
provider.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said script is configured to
provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said
opportunity at a predetermined time.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said added content is pushed
content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein said interactive application is configured to determine whether said one or more automatic selections exist by accessing said message queue.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said added content is provided to a display device or a recording device.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - indicating default script usage preferences; and
 - storing said preferences.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is downloaded.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is dynamically created.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
 - detecting said opportunity exists; and
 - providing said one or more automatic selections in response to detecting said opportunity exists.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in said queue in a repeated manner.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable to:
- store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program;
 - execute an interactive application ~~corresponding to a program~~, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of said added content;
 - provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections, and;
 - generate one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity and based on said indication, wherein generating said automatic selections comprises executing a script, wherein provision of said desired level of added content is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections; and
 - provide said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections. [[:]]
 - ~~wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, and wherein said automated input is indicative of a particular level of said levels of added content to be displayed.~~
20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said carrier medium is configured to convey said script from a network communications operator to a receiver, wherein said script is subsequently executed.
21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein said network communications operator receives said script from a head-end via a second carrier medium.
22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.

- 23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.
- 24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said added content is pushed content.
- 26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein said interactive application is configured to determine whether said one or more automatic selections exist by accessing said message queue.
- 27. (Cancelled).
- 28. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said added content is provided to either a display device or a recording device.
- 29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein said receiver is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.
- 30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is downloaded.
- 31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is dynamically created.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections.

34. (Currently Amended) A script usage device comprising:

a signal receiver, wherein said signal receiver is configured to receive a programming signal; and

a script usage mechanism coupled to said receiver, wherein said script usage mechanism is configured to:

store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a television program;

execute an interactive application corresponding to a program received via said programming signal, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of said added content;

provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections;

generate one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity and based on said indication, wherein generating said automatic selections comprises executing a script, wherein provision of said desired level of added content is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections; and

provide said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections. [[:]]

~~wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, and wherein said automated input is indicative of a particular level of said levels of added content to be displayed.~~

35. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said receiver is configured to receive said script from a network communications operator, and wherein said script usage mechanism is configured to subsequently execute said script.

36. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script usage device is further configured to:

receive said program, said added content, and said script;
store said program, said added content, and said script on a non-volatile storage device coupled to said script usage device; and
retrieve said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile storage device.

37. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said network communications operator is configured to receive said script from a head-end.

38. (Original) The script usage device of claim 37, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.

39. (Original) The script usage device of claim 37, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.

40. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 35, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.

41. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said added content is pushed content.
42. (Currently Amended) The script usage device of claim ~~[[34]]~~48, wherein said interactive application is configured to determine whether said one or more automatic selections exist by accessing said message queue.
43. (Cancelled).
44. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said added content is provided to either a display device or a recording device.
45. (Original) The script usage device of claim 35, wherein said script usage mechanism is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.
46. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is downloaded.
47. (Original) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is dynamically created.
48. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.
49. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections.
50. (Currently Amended) A system for automating user input in an interactive television system comprising:

a first source configured to convey an interactive application to a receiver;

a second source configured to convey added content to said receiver; and

a receiver coupled to said first source and said second source, wherein said receiver is configured to:

store an indication of a desired level of added content to display during display of a program;

execute said interactive application, wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of said added content;

provide an opportunity for the display of added content, wherein provision of said added content is configured to be triggered by one or more user selections;

generate one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity and based on said indication, wherein generating said automatic selections comprises executing a script, wherein provision of said desired level of added content is triggered by said one or more automatic selections instead of said one or more user selections; and

provide said desired level of added content for display in response to detecting said automatic selections. [[:]]

~~wherein said interactive application is configured to provide two or more levels of added content, and wherein said automated input is indicative of a particular level of said levels of added content to be displayed.~~

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein an opportunity to provide said added content is provided by said interactive application executing within said receiver.

52. (Original) The system of claim 50, further comprising a non-volatile storage device, wherein said receiver is further configured to:

receive said added content, said script, and a program corresponding to said added content and said script;
store said program, said added content, and said script on said non-volatile storage device; and
retrieve said program, added content, and said script from said non-volatile storage device.

53. (Original) The system of claim 51, wherein said first source comprises a network communications operator.
54. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said second source comprises a network communications operator.
55. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said second source comprises a web content provider.
56. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein said network communications operator is configured to receive said script from a head-end.
57. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein said head-end comprises a television broadcaster.
58. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein said head-end comprises a web content provider.
59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to provide at least one of said one or more automatic selections associated with said opportunity at a predetermined time.
60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said added content is pushed content.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[50]]~~ 67, wherein said interactive application is configured to determine whether said one or more automatic selections exist by accessing said message queue.
62. (Cancelled).
63. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein said added content is provided to either a display device or a recording device.
64. (Original) The system of claim 51, wherein said receiver is configurable to receive an indication of a default script usage preference and is further configured to store said preference.
65. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is downloaded.
66. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is dynamically created.
67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to store said one or more automatic selections in a message queue.
68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said script is configured to simulate one or more user selections.
69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.
70. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.

71. (Previously Presented) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.
72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said levels of added content comprise increasing levels of detail.
73. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said indication is not associated with any particular added content.
74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.
75. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said indication is not associated with any particular added content.
76. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 75, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.
77. (New) The script usage device of claim 34, wherein said indication is not associated with any particular added content.
78. (New) The script usage device of claim 77, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.
79. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein said indication is not associated with any particular added content.

80. (New) The system of claim 79, wherein said indication is applicable to all applications which provide an opportunity for display of said desired level of added content.